

Can We Study to Attain the Holy Spirit's Offices or Gifts?

Sixbert SANGWA April 16, 2024

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Every believer in Jesus Christ has a unique role to play and a special gift to offer within the body of Christ. This extensive article aims to address and dispel common misconceptions about the offices and gifts of the Holy Spirit, as beautifully portrayed in the Holy Scriptures, particularly in [Ephesians 4:11-16](#). Contrary to what some may think or have been led to believe, these are not positions, roles, or abilities that can be attained through human effort, academic education, social standing, or any form of personal ambition. They are, in essence, divine appointments and gifts. They are generously bestowed by the Holy Spirit Himself, and they are given according to His divine will and

wisdom, not our human desires or ambitions.

The Divine Appointment of the Holy Spirit's Offices

The offices of the Holy Spirit, as vividly described in [Ephesians 4:11-16](#), include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. It's essential to note that these are not positions or roles that can be sought, earned, or acquired by human effort, academic achievement, or by any means of human endeavour. They are appointed solely and exclusively by the Holy Spirit. The Bible, in its divine wisdom and authority, states, "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" ([Ephesians 4:11](#)). This is a divine calling, an appointment that comes directly from the Holy Spirit, not from human institutions, religious

organizations, or any form of human accreditation.

The Role of the Church in Recognizing the Holy Spirit's Appointments

It is crucial to understand that the church has an essential role in recognizing these divine appointments. After prayer and discernment, the church should acknowledge and affirm the calling and gifting of individuals by the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, many have rejected the Spirit's guidance, choosing instead to rely on human understanding or societal patterns such as education level, social class, and the like.

Such a gap has allowed numerous individuals, driven by personal ambitions such as money, social respect, or the business aspect of the church, to self-declare as pastors or appoint themselves in other offices, justifying it by their educational level or other worldly standards. This is a clear deviation from the divine design and an affront to the divine authority of the Holy Spirit.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In addition to the divine offices, the Holy Spirit also bestows spiritual gifts upon believers. These gifts, which include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues ([1 Corinthians 12:8-10](#)), are given "to each one individually as He wills" ([1](#)

[Corinthians 12:11](#)). The gifts are generously given not for personal gain, self-glorification, or any form of selfish ambition, but for the edification of the church and the glory of God. As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we are simply vessels through which the Holy Spirit works, and these gifts are a clear and powerful testament to His divine power, grace, and unconditional love.

The Misconception of Retirement and Other Secular Philosophies

There is a growing misconception in some Christian circles about the concept of retirement from the Holy Spirit's appointed office. This concept is not biblical. The divine gifts and callings are intended to be lifelong commitments and responsibilities. As long as we live and breathe, we are called to serve and fulfill God's divine purpose for our lives. "*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*" ([Romans 11:29](#)). Sadly, secular ideas, including the concept of retirement and the unwarranted removal of individuals from divine offices, have crept into some churches. These ungodly philosophies are not in alignment with God's divine design, which is eternal, unchanging, and perfect in every way.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the gifts and offices of the Holy Spirit are not attained by human effort or desire, but are divine appointments given by the Holy Spirit Himself. As believers, we are called to serve in the capacities that the Holy

Spirit has appointed us, using the gifts He has given us, for the edification of the Church and the glory of God. Our service is not limited by earthly concepts such as retirement; it is a lifelong commitment. It is our earnest prayer and hope that we may continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our service, use our gifts to glorify God, and edify one another in love, until the day we are called home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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